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The thread of narrative of the political events from 1555 to 1567 is not particularly original but the presentation is fairly vital, far more so that in the more expanded story of M. Gossart. M. Pirenne agrees with the latter in his general opinion that political causes were more potent than religion in bringing about the revolt. The chapters on the social, economic and artistic life are interesting, though rather less so than those upon these topics in the first and second volumes. They touch Belgium as closely as possible, leaving the conditions in the northern Netherlands to Professor Blok's sister history, which, as well as Pirenne's, appears in the series entitled *Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*.

Geschichte Spaniens unter den Habsburgern. Erster Band. *Geschichte Spaniens unter der Regierung Karls I. (V.)*. [*Allgemeine Staatengeschichte*, herausgegeben von K. LAMPRECHT. *Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, herausgegeben von A. H. L. HEEREN, F. A. UKERT, W. v. GIESEBRECHT und K. LAMPRECHT, I. 36, I.] Von KONRAD HÄBLER. (Gotha: Friedrich Andreas Perthes. 1907. Pp. xvi, 432.)

THIS volume, though edited under new auspices and a different title, is in reality the continuation of the *Geschichte Spaniens* up to 1516, in seven volumes, published by Heeren and Ukert, 1831-1902, and written (vol. I.) by Friedrich Wilhelm Lembke, (vols. II., III.) by Heinrich Schäfer and (vols. IV.-VII.) by Friedrich Wilhelm Schirrmacher. Its author, for some years past one of the librarians of the Königl. Öffentliche Bibliothek in Dresden, is already well known as the writer of upwards of half a dozen monographs on Spanish economic history and bibliography, among the best known of which are *Die Wirtschaftliche Blüte Spaniens im 16^{ten} Jahrhundert und ihr Verfall* (Berlin, 1888), and *Die Geschichte der Fugger'schen Handlung in Spanien* (Weimar, 1897).

The present work supplies adequately a long-felt want. The different biographers of Charles V., from Robertson to Armstrong, have laid stress rather on the international aspects of the reign than on domestic affairs, and Spanish historians, in writing of their native land in the sixteenth century, have for the most part, in their patriotic desire to emphasize the more glorious side of their national development, followed the same tendency; with the result that we have not hitherto possessed any satisfactory account of the internal history of Spain under the emperor, save at crises like the Revolt of the Comuneros. Professor Häbler has written his book from precisely the opposite standpoint. He has succeeded in cutting down his account of foreign affairs to less than one quarter of his entire volume; his principal interest is obviously the internal administration of Spain and of her colonies. There is much to applaud and little to criticize.

The verdicts on the emperor throughout are extremely favorable: the author sees in Charles a far-sighted and benevolent ruler, who wrestles manfully with the hopeless task of educating his obstinate and slow-moving Spanish subjects to appreciation of and participation in his broad and statesmanlike plans for their welfare and that of Europe. At times he overstates his case—especially in his generalizations about the emperor's respect for representative institutions—and his conclusions should be controlled by those of historians who have dealt with Charles's career from other standpoints. A fuller knowledge of the French and American literature on his subject would have improved his book. Such capitally important works as Mignet's *Rivalité de François I^{er} et Charles Quint*, and Gounon-Loubens's *Essais sur l'Administration de la Castille* are not mentioned. A more careful perusal of Bourne's *Spain in America* would have caused Professor Häbler to modify some of the statements in his chapter on the colonies.

The chapters on finance and on the crown's policy in regard to the American Indians form the best part of the work. Students in this country will be particularly grateful for the dozen pages dealing with the early development of the *encomiendas*. In his treatment of the very difficult financial problems of the reign and more especially of the attitude of the Cortes thereto, the author develops and enlarges the views first presented in his *Wirtschaftliche Blüte Spaniens*, in 1888. He shows clearly that Charles was anxious, from the outset, to abolish the exemption from taxation enjoyed by nobles and clergy, the chief result of which was to overburden the mass of his subjects; also that he realized the blighting effect of the *alcabala* or tax on sales, and was willing to surrender it in return for a more equitable and less injurious form of impost. For various reasons the Cortes refused several advantageous propositions which he made them, until matters finally came to a crisis in the famous session of 1538. In return for a *sisá* or tax on the necessities of life, to be voted for a special purpose and to be incident for the first time on the privileged orders as well as the commons, the emperor offered the Castilian estates a far wider share in the government and administration of the realm than they had yet enjoyed—privileges, in fact, similar to those enjoyed by the far more independent Cortes of Aragon. This far-sighted proposal, however, was not accepted, owing to the obstinacy of the estates; with the result that instead of gaining the increased power which Charles had offered them, the Cortes rapidly declined, and a golden opportunity was irretrievably lost. Another interesting phase of the question, which Professor Häbler touches tentatively, but fails to carry through to any very definite conclusion, is the evidence afforded of the emperor's desire to secure greater uniformity in the institutions of the different realms comprised in the Iberian peninsula, and break down the barriers that separated one from another. The worst fault of the Hapsburg despotism in Spain was its decentralized character: the nation reaped

all the disadvantages and few of the benefits that may reasonably be expected to accompany an omnipotent kingship. That Charles should have perceived this fault and tried, though ineffectually, to correct it, is surely a lasting claim to greatness.

ROGER BIGELOW MERRIMAN.

Histoire de l'Expansion Coloniale des Peuples Européens: Portugal et Espagne (jusqu'au Début du XIX^e Siècle). Par CHARLES DE LANNOY, Professeur à l'Université de Gand, et HERMAN VANDER LINDEN, Chargé de cours à l'Université de Liège. (Bruxelles: Henri Lamertin. 1907. Pp. 451, with Maps.)

THIS useful volume is, according to the plans of the authors, one of a series dealing with the history of the colonial expansion of European peoples. An introduction treating in general terms the expansion of the peoples of antiquity will be followed by various volumes on medieval, modern and contemporary fields. The two monographs included in this volume are therefore published out of chronological order. They deserve attention, however, not only for their intrinsic merit but because of the earnest they should furnish of the scope, method and general value of the work as planned. The authors have in general made use only of printed material but by numerous foot-notes and a bibliography of some three hundred titles have shown their familiarity with the great collections of documents and with the better secondary sources and special studies. The result is a general introduction to the subject, a résumé of the chief facts, and not in any sense an exhaustive study. The history of the various colonial establishments of Portugal and Spain to the beginning of the nineteenth century is not attempted; and attention is concentrated on the processes of expansion, the administrative and economic policies involved and the results of colonial empire for the home countries. In each case, only ten pages are devoted to the transplanted civilization of Europe.

The method is good. Physiographic, economic, political and social conditions at home are first reviewed. Then in each case the early history of the respective colonial ventures is treated and, thanks to caution and accuracy, the book is free from many persistent and misleading generalizations. On special disputed points the authors have followed the conclusions of one expert or another (generally it appears the better), but have usually summarized the opposing view in a foot-note. It is, perhaps, to be regretted that in the case of Asia more attention was not given to reviewing the local conditions which were to exercise such a profound influence on the European settlements. The possibilities of the colonial *milieu* do not seem to have been properly realized. The sections on economic policy, especially in the case of Portugal, do, however, show both accuracy and appreciation of the questions involved. The value of such a volume and indeed of the whole series depends upon the ability of the writers to reach conclu-